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route de Ferney 150
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MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

20-28 February 1984

Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Geneva, Switzerland
20-28 February 1984

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and worship

The meeting convened at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, 20 February, at the Motel de Chavannes-de-Bogis. The Moderator welcomed members to the first meeting of the new Executive Committee.

The opening worship was led by the Moderator. Morning prayers on subsequent days were led by Dr McCloud, Dr Bührig, Ms Kaddu, Dr Held, Ms Love and Archbishop Makhulu.

On Monday, 27 February, members joined the service of worship held at the Ecumenical Centre, which was led by the Officers. The Moderator shared the chairing of the meeting with the Vice-Moderators.

On Friday, 24 February, members attended a meeting with WCC staff at the Ecumenical Centre, which was followed by an apéritif. On Sunday, 26 February, members took part in the services of a number of local congregations. On Tuesday, 28 February, a dinner and reception were offered to the Committee by the Swiss Protestant Church Federation and the National Protestant Church of Geneva.

During its session the Executive Committee received a message from the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches meeting in Cairo, expressing the readiness of the Reformed churches to promote the unity of the churches of Jesus Christ and offering their concern and prayers for the work of the WCC. The Moderator and General Secretary were asked to reply on behalf of the WCC Executive Committee.

B. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those attending. The Honorary President, Dr Visser 't Hooft, sent greetings. His Beatitude Ignatios IV was unable to attend owing to the situation in Damascus, and Bishop Athanasios was ill. It was agreed to send them messages of good wishes.

C. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Vancouver, 21-23 July 1983, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

D. Adoption of agenda and timetable

The General Secretary presented the agenda, which was adopted. The proposed timetable was adopted as a flexible basis for work.

E. Sub-groups and sub-committees

The General Secretary presented the proposed membership of the sub-groups. Two changes were agreed and the lists as amended were approved (Appendix II). The General Secretary also presented the proposed membership of the Sub-committees on Programme, Finance, and Staffing and Nominations which, with one amendment, were approved (Appendix III). The work to be done by the sub-committees was briefly outlined.

F. Audio-visual presentation

Mr Coïdan introduced a slide presentation on the financing of the various aspects of the Council's work, indicating the basic limits which would have to be taken into account in decisions on programme. Mr Bluck introduced slides showing the structure of WCC programmes and their inter-linkages. The General Secretary spoke of the need to see the work of the Council as a whole, while recognizing the specificity of each of the sub-units. He hoped the Committee would give advice on the connections within and between Units which should be highlighted.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary first paid tribute to three ecumenical leaders who had died in January: the Rev. Dr Robert Mackie had been General Secretary of the British Student Christian Movement and of the World Student Christian Federation before becoming an Associate General Secretary of the WCC from 1948 to 1955 and Director of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees. The Rev. Dr John Coventry Smith was a WCC President from 1968 to 1975. He played an important role in the integration of the International Missionary Council with the WCC and in the formation of the East Asia Christian Conference, and was head of the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA. Prof. Nils Ehrenström was active for many years in the Life and Work Movement and was first director of the study work of the WCC in process of formation until 1954. From 1955 until his retirement he was Professor of Ecumenics at Boston University.

A. Post-Assembly activities

The official Assembly reports in English, German and French had now been published and the Communication Department had prepared a film and other audio-visual material on the Assembly. Some first evaluations of various aspects of the Assembly had been made and intensive work had been done in Units and sub-units on the material produced by the Assembly. During the Week of Meetings in October, presentations by each Unit and the General Secretariat had been discussed in mixed groups and there had also been inter-unit discussions. All Core Groups had met in Montreux, 9-13 January 1984, in plenary sessions and in Unit and sub-unit groups. This had been a valuable part of the process leading to the detailed decisions to be made by the Central Committee in July on the basis of the Assembly guidelines. In the whole process an attempt had been made to hold together programme, relationships and finance. Relationships with the member churches, regional and national councils, Christian World Communions and other constituencies were seen as having an important bearing on the planning and implementation of programmes. Core groups of task forces for each region consisting of one staff member from each Unit and the General Secretariat had been appointed to monitor programme relationships and these groups would carry more responsibility for ensuring that programmes reach the member churches and related councils in an effective way. A new Task Force on Resource Sharing had been set up and in October a meeting with representatives of various agencies had considered better methods of ecumenical sharing of both material and non-material resources. Financially, the Council was healthy in that it was not in debt, but diminishing reserves and the deteriorating world monetary situation meant that extreme care would be needed from 1985 onwards. Staff had been involved with the constituency in various ways and were also preparing for two UN events in 1985: International Youth Year and the end of the Decade for Women. The Bossey Graduate School, on the theme "Visible church unity in a divided world", was in session with about 60 students from some 30 countries. Two WCC documents were receiving considerable attention: the Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry statement had been translated into over twenty languages and the WCC itself had produced more than 150,000 copies; the Ecumenical Affirmation on Mission and Evangelism was also being extensively used and studied and was a means of closer dialogue with Evangelicals.

B. Events and visits

In October, Secretaries of the Christian World Communions met in Sofia to discuss the reception of BEM, bilateral conversations and ways in which churches are involved in human rights and in issues of peace and justice. A major ecumenical event in November in a number of countries was the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther. The General Secretary had visited both the FRG and GDR on this occasion. In the GDR

In the GDR the WCC had been presented with a bronze head of Luther. At the end of January, Dr Bührig and Mr Coĭdan had represented the WCC at the celebration in Zürich of the 500th anniversary of Zwingli's birth.

Three of the WCC Presidents had visited the Council: Dr Wilson in September, Patriarch Ignatios IV in November, and Dr Bührig in January. Other visits included groups from the newly-united Presbyterian Church (USA), from member churches in the GDR, and the United Methodist Church, USA. A delegation from the Christian Conference of Asia had come to discuss common concerns and general relations with the WCC and similar delegations were expected from the All Africa Conference of Churches and the Caribbean Conference of Churches.

In November, Bishop K.H. Ting and Mr Han Wenzao from the China Christian Council had had some days of intensive discussions with the staff in the first official contact between the churches in China and the WCC since 1956. Bishop Ting had pointed out that the church in China is in a very transitional, post-denominational state and struggling to see what form the church there will take in future. It faced many problems and its main emphasis at present was on pastoral responsibility and theological education. Ecumenical relations were not seen as a first priority for the church though it welcomed contacts. A large delegation from the British Council of Churches had visited China recently and a group of Chinese Christians would soon be visiting Australia. There was a possibility of a WCC visit to China in October.

In January the Polish Minister for Religious Affairs, Mr Adam Lopatka, accompanied by the President and Secretary of the Polish Ecumenical Council had visited the WCC and addressed the staff on church relations in Poland and the role of the churches in that society. He had expressed gratitude for the help which had been given to the Polish churches through WCC member churches.

In February staff of the Anglican Consultative Council and a number of ecumenical officers of Anglican churches came to discuss the relationships of Anglican member churches and of the Anglican Consultative Council with the WCC.

C. Relations with the Roman Catholic Church

A new code of Canon Law had been published which contained three clear references to the ecumenical commitment of the Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican had now agreed to the appointment of Sister Joan Delaney as a consultant to CWME. In January the General Secretary had visited Rome and met the Pope and discussed a number of issues with him, including the importance of his giving strong support to the work of the Joint Working Group (JWG). Dr Potter had also spent time with the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, which had been strengthened by the return to Rome of Cardinal Willebrands as full-time President.

The Executive Group of the JWG had met in Venice, 26-29 January, to prepare for the meeting of the full JWG in October. It had now been officially announced that the Pope would visit the WCC for two-and-a-half hours on 12 June.

D. Public issues

The General Secretary said the most striking fact in the six months since the Assembly had been the rapid deterioration in the world situation - a situation of confrontation rather than conversation. Destabilization was widespread and the world food situation, especially in poor countries, had become dramatic. Major upheavals all over the world had led to a growing number of refugees, an enormous increase in unemployment, and migrant workers in industrialized countries being subject to xenophobia.

A message had been sent to the churches in Korea about the shooting down of the Korean airliner, and there had been constant pressure on behalf of Korean Christians imprisoned for their stand on human rights. Three prominent persons had just been released. Emergency aid to Sri Lanka had continued and the situation there was being closely watched. Following the Assembly an eight-member team had visited Nicaragua for contacts with the churches and the government. Its report was widely distributed. The Middle East continued to be a major concern. The Assembly statement on the Middle East had been received by the conference of non-governmental organizations on the Palestinian issue. Discussions had also taken place with Patriarch Ignatios and with the General Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches. The Assembly statement and appeal to the churches regarding World Food Day, 16 October, had been sent to the churches with suggestions for prayers and action. In October, following the assassination of government leaders in Grenada and the invasion by the USA, the WCC had issued a statement condemning the illegal invasion of the island and pointing to the dangers of such a development for the whole region. Mr Koshy had later visited Grenada, Trinidad and Barbados.

Southern Africa, including Namibia, continued to receive major attention. The Eloff Commission had just published its report and it was hoped to receive reactions from the South African Council of Churches and that the Executive Committee could express its solidarity with the SACC and the member churches in South Africa. The situation in the Horn of Africa had deteriorated and the introduction of Islamic law in Sudan deeply affected the Christian minority and relations between the north and south of the country.

The WCC continued to make representations with and through churches with regard to violations of human rights. The UN Commission on Human Rights, now meeting in Geneva, was continuing work on a Convention on Torture and on strengthening the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance.

The WCC had given a reception which had been attended by more than 150 participants, including representatives of almost all delegations.

CCIA had prepared Notes on many of these areas. How, the General Secretary asked, do we as churches witness to the truth of the Gospel and to peace and justice in the midst of all these situations?

* * *

In the discussion of the General Secretary's report, Metropolitan Gregorios suggested that the Executive Committee recommend serious study up to the time of the Central Committee on two issues: (a) Communal conflict disrupting national unity, e.g. in India, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Lebanon and Sudan. Christians needed to be helped to think in terms of the welfare of the whole and not only in terms of their own interests, but study of the different situations was necessary to that any statement would be relevant to all. The Metropolitan and Mr Koshy were asked to prepare a written proposal for future work on this issue. (b) The care of children, which has become a huge issue in developing countries where millions of lives are lost every year because of lack of care. Dr Becker referred to the programmes in tis field undertaken since 1979. The Education Sub-unit was involved with UNICEF and other organizations in a joint effort to bring together people working with street children and young people.

Dr Toth noted that in Hungary this year more Roman Catholics than ever before had participated in local celebrations of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. He also spoke of the European situation after the deployment of nuclear missiles. The future of détente should not be dependent only on this issue: there were many other fields of cooperation.

In reply to a question from Bishop Hempel, Mr Blanc and Prof. Sabev spoke of the meeting of the JWG Executive Group in Venice. They had been encouraged by the willingness on the Roman Catholic side to discuss differences and to extend cooperation beyond the main areas of Faith and Order and CWME. The General Secretary added that he might visit Rome again in April for talks with the Secretariats with which the WCC works most closely.

In response to comments and questions about relations with the church in China, the General Secretary said that the purpose of the possible WCC visit would not be to discuss membership in the WCC but to symbolize and demonstrate the solidarity of the church throughout the world with Chinese Christians. It was important that Christians there should be clearly seen to be the church in China and not dependent on any outside body.

Mr Love expressed appreciation for the team visit to Nicaragua. The report was being widely used both by US churches and by secular groups concerned about human rights issues.

3. SIXTH ASSEMBLY EVALUATION

Mr Perkins introduced a preliminary summary of comments and opinions prepared on the basis of responses to the questionnaire distributed to all Assembly participants, on reports, speeches and articles received, staff evaluations and on a few official reactions from member churches. Comments dealt primarily with the programme and functioning of the Assembly. Assessment of the historical significance of the Assembly in the life of the ecumenical movement would be left to a later date. It was clear that the general response from both individuals and churches was extremely positive and much gratitude had been expressed for the centrality of worship; the extensive treatment of the theme; the struggle to maintain the inter-relationship between issues of peace and justice and between social concerns and theological issues; the gathering of the people of God; the affirmation and commitment of the ecumenical movement as it really is; the personal discoveries, encounters and commitments; and the overwhelmingly hospitable reception by the Vancouver and Canadian churches and people. Although many criticisms had also been received, it was important to stress that these had been made in a constructive spirit as suggestions for improvement by persons whose enthusiasm for the Assembly and commitment to the WCC were evident. A number of matters were noted for further study with a view to planning for the Seventh Assembly.

Mr Bluck presented some first impressions gained from clippings from the daily and weekly press, largely in the Western world. He stressed that a more comprehensive picture of press coverage could only be given when monthly and quarterly journals had been gathered and some impressions gained of reactions in Third World countries and in languages other than those officially used by the WCC. The most extensive and thoughtful coverage of the Assembly had come from the electronic media. Despite the amount of background material and the number of briefing sessions provided, it was clear that even more preparation was needed to help the media to cover such events intelligently. Mr Bluck spoke of the need to build up awareness in the WCC constituency as to how media systems operate so that members would be more realistic in their expectations and could engage in conversations about the real confrontation which exists between media values and Gospel values.

Metropolitan Antonie stressed the need for a much deeper evaluation of the Assembly by the churches in order to help them develop their own life in society today. Ms Kaddu asked that in future more assistance be provided for Third World journalists to attend such meetings so that they could help to educate people in their countries about the WCC. Mr Ashmall referred to the criticism of the election process and hoped that the Central Committee would be encouraged to set up a committee to review the process of nominations and elections. Mr Stalsett spoke of the evaluation session held by all Nordic

members of Central Committee and of the need to interpret and communicate the WCC to the congregations. In particular it was felt that more work was needed on the whole process of making public statements. Dr Bührig agreed that the churches needed to be helped to understand the process behind such statements and to deal with them in a responsible way. Metropolitan Gregorios asked that there be further analysis of the elements which made the worship at Vancouver so much better than in previous Assemblies. He also hoped that means would be found to provide the Assembly film to NCCs for their work of educating the churches.

It was agreed to transmit the report and the comments made to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session, Metropolitan Chrysostomos reported that the Programme Sub-committee:

a. expressed appreciation for the preliminary study made by the staff;

b. emphasized the need for ongoing evaluation on a wider basis;

c. requested staff to continue this process by
   - collecting and studying reports from member churches (in as many languages as possible);
   - asking delegations to indicate the main points of their reporting to their own churches;
   - eliciting a more considered evaluation and reflection on the Assembly from all delegates.

d. requested that major insights from these further studies be included in the reports of the General Secretary and Moderator to the Central Committee;

e. proposed that comments and observations made by the Central Committee be recorded and used in the preparation of the next Assembly.

The General Secretary stressed the need to study the official Assembly report and evaluate its implications for the Council's work. Dr Bührig suggested that churches be asked what they did with the Assembly recommendations, such as the Peace and Justice statement.

The Executive Committee received the report of the Programme Sub-committee and endorsed its recommendations.

4. REPORTS OF SUB-GROUPS ON THE UNITS AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Reports on the three Programme Units and the General Secretariat, resulting from the work of the Core Groups meeting in Montreux in January, were discussed in seven sessions of sub-groups. The sub-groups affirmed the general thrusts of these reports and made many detailed proposals for amendment. The reports of the sub-groups were fully discussed in plenary sessions and a number of further amendments made. The main comments of the sub-groups and of the full Executive Committee are noted below.

A. UNIT I: Dr Nababan presented the report.

- While affirming the specific nature and structures of the Unit, the sub-group suggested that further efforts be made for deepening the process of sub-unit's integration, coherence and growing together, in order to serve the wholeness of the Council as one organism.

- Unit I should give some priority to improving working methods and relationships to allow a better interaction between theological studies and local congregations and groups.

- Unit I is called to contribute to the realization of ecumenism as the expression of common faith and life of the whole people of God. Programme priorities should be tested with regard to relevance and effectiveness at congregational level.

- Since the unity of the Church, expressed in one faith, one eucharistic and concilar fellowship is a central programmatic concern for Unit I, particular attention should be given to the eucharistic vision of unity.

- The eucharistic vision should also guide the Council's (and Unit I's) overall concern for the Unity of the Church and the Renewal of Human Community, the ecumenical sharing of resources and the theological approaches regarding interrelatedness of vertical-horizontal and personal-social dimensions of all ecumenical programmes.

The sub-group report included sections on each of the sub-units in Unit I, making general comments and suggestions and recommendations on specific programmes:

Commission on Faith and Order: The sub-group commented that some additional forms of working style should be suggested which would be complementary to the method of international consultations and regional working groups. It asked that the new scope of Faith and Order programmes be kept in mind in nominations for the Plenary Commission, working groups and consultations. It also asked that there be female theologians on the staff of Faith and Order.

Ms Skuse and Dr Love raised questions about the further study of the ordination of women, particularly in relation to the reception process of BEM. Dr Gassmann indicated that the question would be discussed by the Standing Commission of Faith and Order in April. Faith and Order would be prepared, if requested, to help Orthodox churches to hold a consultation on the subject and to facilitate discussions between Orthodox churches and those which ordain women. The General Secretary hoped that the programme on the Unity of the Church and the Renewal of Human Community would be clarified to enable other sub-units to see how they could contribute to it.

Commission on World Mission and Evangelism: The sub-group said the report should clearly stress the imperative to proclaim the Gospel to persons and groups who have never had the opportunity to hear of Jesus Christ - the Life of the World. The WCC commitment to peace with justice should be more clearly reflected in the documents, as a major context within which CWME programmes take place. The role of the Bible in evangelism and mission should be underlined, with particular emphasis on the use of the Bible in the renewal of congregational life.

Dr McCloud suggested that the search for greater participation in CWME's life of "home mission agencies" should be reflected in the composition of the Commission. It was noted that careful rewording was needed in the sections entitled "Gospel and culture" and "Mission as resistance".

Sub-unit on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths: The sub-group welcomed the emphasis placed on "enabling the churches" at local levels to develop relationships with people of living faiths.

Dr Talbot referred to the proposal of the Programme Sub-committee that the name of the sub-unit be changed (page 24). Metropolitan Gregorios said that the programme on "Theological Significance of People of Living Faiths and their Faiths" was not an attempt to study the theological significance of, for instance, Hinduism, but to see where Hindus fit into the plan of God. It was agreed to reconsider the title of the programme.

Sub-unit on Church and Society: The sub-group expressed appreciation for the new emphasis on the effects of rapid technological development on vulnerable social groups and the need to undertake dialogue with "those who must live with the consequences of technological development". It recognized that such an emphasis justified an extended mandate to include the social, economic and political implications of science and technology within the context of worldwide international justice. It urged that attention be directed to the unequal distribution of scientific and technological knowledge and personnel between industrialized and developing countries and the importance of making all scientific information available to the public. The sub-group expressed appreciation for the proposal to continue the ecumencial enquiry on "God, Humanity and Nature", relating

it to a range of contemporary scientific, technological and ecological issues, and deepening it within the context of a less "Western" religious and philosophical milieu.

Dr Gosling said that some of the issues related to the study on rapid scientific and technological change might be taken up in other sub-units, but science and technology could not be separated from one another. Metropolitan Gregorios felt that the specific contribution of the sub-unit lay in its involvement of scientists in the work of the WCC. This constituency was very concerned about questions of science and peace and justice. The General Secretary spoke of the need to help the churches to appropriate the work done at the 1979 Conference on "Faith, Science and the Future".

B. UNIT II: The report was presented by Dr Tolen.

The sub-group reported that it had discussed priorities in the context both of each sub-unit and of the Unit as a whole. It had agreed that the proposed programmes were achievable if staff were brought to 1984 budgeted strength. It stressed that care must be taken to centre the programmes in the concern for justice and to express the perspectives of the victims of injustice in the development of programmes. The sub-group requested that a calendar of WCC consultations and conferences be prepared for presentation to Central Committee. The Executive Committee agreed that this would be useful.

The sub-group made a number of comments and proposals for redrafting the section on the Unit-wide programme on Linking the Struggles for Justice and Peace. This was further amended by the Executive Committee. The sub-group endorsed the idea of a world conference on justice and peace in 1988.

Christian Medical Commission: The sub-group felt that the points to be highlighted were: (a) the congregation as a healing community and its relationship to the renewal of the Church; (b) the churches' role in health care. The practice of traditional medicine should receive high priority and various experiences should be collected and shared.

Dr McCloud spoke of the need to lift up the Assembly concern that more attention be given to the question of the disabled. The General Secretary noted that this was a concern of the whole Council and should not be seen only as a medical issue.

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs: The sub-group pointed out that, in working for peace, realistic goals have to be set. With regard to conflicts, conceding that conflicts are sometimes unavoidable, efforts should be directed towards resolving them peacefully and ensuring justice. Among the peace and disarmament concerns of CCIA, special emphasis should be given to nuclear disarmament. Among the concerns, the issues of the use of space for war and the conversion of

the economy from war-oriented production to peace-oriented production had to be added. The reactions of churches to peace and justice issues should be analysed.

Mr Stalsett asked that further staff work be done on the Assembly Resolution on Human Rights and the proposal for a Human Rights Advisory Group.

Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service: The sub-group emphasized that the diaconal framework could be the context in which the multi-dimensional concerns of CICARWS could be further developed and integrated. The root causes of problems concerning refugees and migrants should be studied in the context of the Unit-wide programme on peace and justice. Efforts should be made to keep together development, inter-church aid, refugee and world service in the context of the Church's whole life and mission. CICARWS should take an active role, together with other sub-units in Unit II, in addressing the causes of disasters of human origin. The availability and use of human and material resources from the churches in socialist countries should receive continuing exploration. Since some of the present patterns of sharing of resources encourage dependence, giving-receiving relationships should be continually reviewed in an effort to encourage more reciprocal and genuine sharing. The question of foster parents and other means of "financial adoption" should be kept under study and efforts directed towards assisting the churches in understanding the issues and finding complementary alternative methods. The growing bilateralism in resource sharing must be kept under review in order that it may be conducted within an ecumenical environment of mutual trust and integrity.

Metropolitan Gregorios asked that special attention be given to the plight of millions of children who die from hunger and infection. It was pointed out that this concern was already on the agenda of CICARWS, CCPD and CMC. The General Secretary said that perhaps a way might be found to highlight the concern in a more dramatic way than in the past.

Commission on the Churches' Participation in Development: The sub-group noted that the central issue for CCPD was social and economic justice. In order to help the churches to respond to the Assembly's call to support the powerless, CCPD must provide the churches with (a) a clearer theological/pastoral/ecclesiological perspective on solidarity with the poor; (b) a series of analyses of socio-economic structures with suggestions for steps towards attainable change. The proposed study on ideologies was affirmed as a top priority in the proposed Unit-wide programme on justice and peace. In this study, the experiences of churches in both socialist and capitalist countries must be taken seriously. Proposals should be brought to the Central Committee for renewing and redefining the 2% Appeal.

Programme to Combat Racism: The sub-group agreed that special efforts should be made to extend and strengthen the educational aspects of the work of PCR. The subject of race and minority issues, including ethnic communal violence, should be further elaborated and the Central Committee presented with some future plans and projects to that end. The sub-group further stressed the importance of elaborating the interplay between racism and economics. PCR should follow the work done on contextual theology, especially as it related to the situation of the racially oppressed. Plans to study the work of the South Africa Development Coordination Conference more closely were welcomed. Forms and expressions of racism other than white racism should be more prominent on the PCR agenda. The sub-group endorsed the intention to involve the member churches more closely in the work of PCR.

Inter-unit programmes: The sub-group noted the following major inter-unit programmes in which Unit II would participate: Justice and Peace; Ideologies; Culture; Food and Hunger. The Unit would also cooperate with the Sub-unit on Women in several areas.

C. UNIT III: Mr Ashmall presented the report.

The sub-group had approved the four main concerns of the Unit: ecumenical learning, renewal, participation, and ministerial formation. Because its work was essentially people-oriented, it had agreed that an entry point for much of the activity should be at the level of the congregation, and it encouraged staff to make and continue effective contacts with Assembly delegates, Unit participants and commission members. It stressed that those who had served in the past should be encouraged to remain active in ecumenical work.

The sub-group encouraged staff to continue work on a Unit-wide programme. However, the title, "Formation for Participation in Ecumenism", did not win unanimous support and a different formulation should be sought. The sub-group also encouraged staff to pursue cooperation with Unit II on issues of justice and peace.

The sub-group asked the Executive Committee to approve plans in connection with International Youth Year (IYY) to mobilize young people from every region to share their experiences, issues and concerns with each other and the churches. Mr Sintado presented detailed proposals and a preliminary budget to the Executive Committee. In cooperation with the churches and the regional youth organizations, the Youth Sub-unit would organize a series of events in four categories:

- participation of young people, representing churches and youth movements, in regional meetings, to be followed by team visits in that particular region;

- regional and joint regional work-cum-study camp, in which participants from other regions will join and then be engaged in team visits;

- team visits not related to regional events;

- meeting for reflection, evaluation and follow-up.

Regional meetings were planned in Asia (Korea), Latin America, Europe (Finland), North America, and Europe/Middle East (Cyprus). There would be collaboration in a regional ecumenical youth event in Africa in 1984/85. It was expected that all units and sub-units would contribute to the highlighting of IYY, promoting specific youth concerns and involvement in their 1985 programmes.

The Executive Committee endorsed the plans for International Youth Year and agreed to request the Central Committee in July to approve a statement to the churches highlighting IYY.

The sub-group asked the Executive Committee to approve the full participation of the Sub-unit on Women in the events of 1985 marking the end of the UN decade on women. This was agreed.

A programme on "Learning in a world of many faiths, ideologies and cultures: a Christian response" was considered a possibility only if funding were available.

The sub-group considered the issue of inter-unit programmes and four of these were detailed: (a) justice and peace; (b) renewal and spirituality; (c) formation for participation in ecumenism; (d) human sexuality. Staff were asked to review the areas in each Unit where each programme thrust was emerging and to present to the Central Committee in July a scheme wherein Central Committee would appropriate these themes as Council-wide issues, lodged in particular units but with input from a number of units and sub-units.

Archbishop Kirill felt that the opening section of the Unit III report on the concern for Renewal expressed a one-sided view of the past and was unacceptable to Orthodox. Metropolitan Antonie asked for clarification, in the section on PTE, of "women in ministry" and the word "ministry". Did this mean priesthood or general service in the Church? Staff were asked to find wording which would take into account the concerns expressed.

D. GENERAL SECRETARIAT: The report was presented by Ms Skuse.

The sub-group fully endorsed the mandate and role of the General Secretary as interpreted in the document on the General Secretariat. In particular, it stressed the importance of his responsibility to ensure that the WCC maintains its vocation as being both a council of churches and an instrument of the ecumenical movement.

It supported the proposed amendment of the Rules to clarify the status of the Committee on the General Secretariat as an advisory or reference committee for Central Committee, and the functions of which should include at least the following:

- to consider "the state of the Council" and evaluate its general development in the light of the policy directions established by the Central Committee;

- to deal with questions of general policy affecting the Council as a whole raised by the Programme Units or other committees;

- to review carefully the development of relationships;

- to receive reports and review the work of the central programmes and services which relate to the whole Council (i.e. those which are discussed later in this report).

The sub-group recommended that the Programme Sub-committee in July 1984 identify questions to be considered by the General Secretariat Committee regarding the ways in which the wholeness of the Council's programme can be demonstrated, and not only the programmes of the Units and sub-units.

It was the understanding of the sub-group that the Executive Committee functions between meetings of the Central Committee on behalf of the whole Council. Its Finance Sub-committtee deals with budgetary questions and practical financial considerations. Matters of policy should be raised with the General Secretariat Committee and the Unit Committees. The Unit Committees need to give serious consideration to the financial implications of programmes and the resources available. A more adequate process of consultation between the Finance Committee of Central Committee and the Unit Committees still needs to be developed. Further clarification is also needed to establish a clear understanding of the financial responsibilities of Commissions and Working Groups vis-à-vis the Central Committee and the Finance Committee.

Relationships: The sub-group recommended that more developed proposals be brought to Central Committee regarding the sharing of concerns, statements and reports between the WCC and the member churches. It also recommended that there be further consultation regarding continued consultation and visitation involving the Orthodox member churches, and especially the Orthodox contribution to the WCC and its member churches. The sub-group had received a report on the New York Office and noted that current discussions indicated the possibility of new and creative relations with the NCCC/USA. It welcomed the proposal for consultation and continuing dialogue with representatives of regional conferences on matters of common concern, and suggested that this be explored in conversation during the

Central Committee in 1984 with a view to a special meeting in 1985. The Executive Committee accepted this proposal. The sub-group recommended that the relationship of the WCC and its member churches to networks related to specific programmes be taken up by all three Programme Units and that these further considerations be reported to the General Secretariat Committee.

With regard to Christian World Communions, the Executive Committee agreed that a number of persons within the WCC fellowship be asked to articulate the issues which arise in relationships between the WCC and the CWCs. The tension between ecumenical commitment and confessional or denominational identity needed continued study, as did the "inter-dependence" of WCC membership and bilateral dialogues. The Executive Committee recommended that testimonies and models of this inter-dependence be gathered and circulated to show how confessional and ecumenical identities can be mutually enriching in the search for unity. Regarding relationships with the Roman Catholic Church, the sub-group proposed that member churches be asked for an assessment of relationships with the RCC in the local/national situation. Dr McCloud stressed that the member churches should be held accountable for their participation in councils and CWCs.

Travel, Team Visits and Regional Meetings: Staff were asked to develop a process by which the Assembly concern for team visits would be addressed, for presentation to Central Committee in July. This should include also the coordination of staff travel and the relationship with the regional staff task forces.

Ecumenical Institute: The sub-group asked that policy matters relating to the future programme of the Ecumenical Institute should be considered by the General Secretariat Committee in July. Staff were requested to prepare proposals, especially in regard to ways in which WCC programme priorities could involve Bossey.

Library: The sub-group endorsed the appointment of a Board for the Library. A proposal regarding its functions should be brought to the General Secretariat Committee. Staff were requested to consider and report on ways in which the Library could take a more active role in making its resources available to staff and sub-units and in promoting its use. A developed proposal should be presented to the Central Committee which identified the priorities for the organization of the Archives and tasks for qualified assistance to implement them. The possibility of oral history should be considered.

Personnel: The sub-group asked for clarification of the issues related to the recruitment of staff and their reintegration into their own churches following service with the WCC and the responsibility of the member churches for their members who serve on the staff.

Office for Income Coordination and Development: The sub-group emphasized that the wholeness and oneness of the WCC should be expressed in its funding patterns and noted certain requests of the Assembly that needed attention and/or action. Staff were asked to prepare a paper for discussion by Central Committee on the financial responsibilities of membership.

Finance: The sub-group urged that further attention be given to the relationship between the structures of the Council and its financial difficulties in the light of the review undertaken since 1981 of programmes, structures and working methods.

Communication Department: The sub-group highlighted the following points as priorities for further relationship-building work of the Department:

- new ways of challenging and enabling member churches to share the responsibility for communicating the WCC;

- clarification of the WCC's role as a public speaker, including whom we are speaking to and the variety of ways by which the WCC is seen and heard;

- greater attention to strategies that reach those parts of the constituency outside the reach of the Council's working languages and usual communication channels. Any development of a WCC annual report should include this priority;

- the study themes of the Department should be seen as integral to programmatic developments in all three Units as they affect Gospel and culture, justice and peace, and ecumenical formation.

The Executive Committee agreed

i. to receive the reports of the sub-groups on the three Programme Units and the General Secretariat;

ii. to refer them, together with the detailed comments made, to staff for further revision before presentation to the Central Committee in July;

iii. to ask staff to continue to develop programme priorities and relationships in preparation for decisions to be taken by the Central Committee in July.

5. PUBLIC ISSUES

Mr Koshy introduced a paper on a number of public issues with which the WCC had dealt in the period since the Assembly. Four of these situations were brought to the attention of the Executive mainly for information; on two - Lebanon, and the South African Council of Churches and the Eloff Commission - it was recommended that the Executive take action in the form of a statement or message.

The paper included the rules and criteria for public statements and explained the procedures by which such statements were prepared for the Assembly. It was noted that public statements were only one form of action. The Council had evolved various methodologies, including pastoral visits, representations to governments, and delegations to study and report on specific situations. The considerations involved in choosing a particular action were not always transparent. This sometimes led to charges of selectivity. The WCC in its response had to be sensitive to the needs of the individual churches in its fellowship. It was not always possible, at least at the time of action, to explain all the factors publicly. WCC actions attempted to include three components: biblical insights, ecumenical experience, and social and political analysis.

Mr Stalsett hoped staff would develop a study document which would increase the churches' understanding of the processes and difficulties. Dr Love stressed the importance of providing background information to the churches. Mr Bluck spoke of the need for the WCC to acknowledge that it was limited by possibilities and restraints arising from the life of its member churches, and of the need to be more precise about the addressees of its public statements. There should also be greater efforts to make known the wide range of the WCC's concerns not reflected in its public statements. The General Secretary pointed out that among the critical areas to which Unit II, in cooperation with the member churches, would be giving special attention in the next period was the public role of the WCC in international affairs and human rights. In this connection it was important to work on a study document for the churches.

A. Grenada

Mr Koshy presented a Note tracing the sequence of events in Grenada which culminated in its invasion by the USA at the end of October 1983. These events had raised questions of profound significance, not only for the whole Caribbean region but also for the rest of the world, regarding the security of "mini-states" and their right to establish a government of their own choice, free from destabilization from outside. The General Secretary had issued a statement in October, joining the Caribbean Conference of Churches in deploring the invasion and the WCC was working closely with the CCC and the churches

in the area to understand the implications and long-term consequences of the US invasion. In November Mr Koshy and the Rev. Dwain Epps, NCCC/USA, had visited Grenada and neighbouring countries and Mr Epps had also attended a meeting of the CCC in December. The matter would be further discussed with a delegation from the CCC which would visit Geneva in May. Dr McCloud noted that a number of churches in the USA had been prompt in condemning the US invasion.

After discussion, the Executive Committee agreed:

i. to ask the General Secretary and staff to continue to watch the situation closely, to keep the member churches informed and to ask them to assist Grenada and its people;

ii. at an appropriate moment to take up the question of the self-reliance of small states.

B. Central America

Mr Koshy presented a Note on developments in the area since the Vancouver Assembly. In September, pastoral visits by ecumenical teams had been paid to Nicaragua and Honduras. Information on human rights had been shared with the member churches and the UN Commission on Human Rights, humanitarian assistance had been continued, and efforts had been made with several groups and governments in the region to promote reconciliation.

The Executive Committee noted the information and agreed to ask the General Secretary and staff to follow the situation and keep the churches informed of new developments.

C. Sudan

Mr Koshy introduced a Note on recent developments in the Sudan, in particular the re-division of the South into three administrative regions, which had led to a new political and military struggle in the area, and the introduction of Islamic law, which had aroused deep concern in the largely non-Muslim South. At the request of the Sudan Council of Churches, the WCC had renewed its contacts with several leaders in the Sudan, but a number of new factors, including the involvement of several powers from and outside the region and the increased economic importance of the South, could lead to an escalation of the conflict.

Dr Tolen suggested that the Sudan might be one of the case studies to be taken up in the proposed study on communal conflict.

It was agreed that staff should continue to monitor the situation.

D. Sri Lanka

Mr Koshy introduced a Note on Sri Lanka, following the ethnic violence in July 1983 and the Assembly statement on the situation. In January an all-party Conference, including leaders of religious groups, had begun but had not yet made much progress towards a political settlement. The situation offered a special challenge to the churches which bring together Sinhalese and Tamil communities and their witness needed the support of the ecumenical fellowship. A series of visits to Sri Lanka was being planned.

Ms Abayasekera spoke of the great insecurity among the Tamils. The support they received from India caused animosity towards Indians in Sri Lanka.

E. Middle East

Mr Koshy spoke of the efforts by religious leaders, including Patriarch Ignatios, to hold discussions with other communities. Attempts were being made to bring a ceasefire into effect, and the Security Council was considering a proposal for a UN peacekeeping force. The conflict between Iran and Iraq was fast moving towards total war, with serious consequences both within and outside the region. The WCC had had discussions with the Middle East Council of Churches and it was suggested that the Executive Committee send a message to the churches in the Middle East. It was agreed that the following group should draft a message: Metropolitan Gregorios (convener), Ms Skuse, Mr Stalsett.

At a later session, Metropolitan Gregorios presented the proposed message. After discussion and minor amendment, the Executive Committee agreed to send the following message to the churches in the Middle East:

> The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting near Geneva on February 20-28, 1984, has prayerfully considered the persistence of conflicts in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon. As the Sixth Assembly said in August 1983, the ecumenical community shares the agony of the peoples in Lebanon who have been tragically suffering over the last nine years and who have been carrying too large a burden of the problems of the region.
>
> The Committee pledges full and prayerful support in the coordinated efforts of the religious leaders of Christians and Muslims in Lebanon to seek reconciliation and cessation of conflict, to secure a just and negotiated settlement of all disputed issues, to secure the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanese territory and to rebuild one united Lebanon where people of all religious faiths can live together with dignity, justice

and harmony. Christians all over the world continue in prayer for the people of Lebanon that peace with justice may soon prevail in that land.

The Committee also expresses its solidarity with the people of Lebanon in their incessant pain and continued suffering, and assures all possible support for the efforts to bring humanitarian assistance to all victims of the conflict.

May the God of peace grant you peace, and may His presence and power bring you joy and comfort in the midst of your affliction.

F. The South African Council of Churches and the Eloff Commission

Mr Koshy presented a Note outlining the history of the investigation of the SACC by the Eloff Commission. The enquiry had been an occasion for many churches around the world to demonstrate their support of the ministry of the SACC. The report raised fundamental questions about church/state relationships and the right of the churches to speak publicly about political and economic policies. Bishop Tutu, in response, had made clear that the underlying issues were not political but theological.

In discussion Mr Stalsett suggested that any statement might take into account developments in relationships between South Africa and Mozambique. Archbishop Makhulu spoke of the serious questions as to the sovereignty of states posed by South African strategy in the region. It was agreed to appoint the following group to consider both matters: Archbishop Makhulu (convener), Ms Abayasekera, Dr Held, Dr McCloud.

At a later session, Archbishop Makhulu presented a proposed message to the SACC which, after minor amendment, was adopted as follows:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the life of the world.

The Sixth Assembly of the WCC, meeting during July/August 1983 in Vancouver, Canada, expressed "its admiration and support" for your "prophetic and courageous stand for human dignity, justice and liberation". Having now received a copy of the report of the Eloff Commission of Enquiry presented to the South African Parliament on 15 February, we wish to reaffirm our solidarity with you in your ongoing struggle for justice and peace, and commend the SACC and its member churches to the constant loving care of the God of justice and truth.

We unite with you in declaring again that the ideology, policies and practice of apartheid are evil and should be eradicated. We recall that the Vancouver Assembly reiterated "its conviction that apartheid stands condemned by the Gospel of Jesus Christ... and that any theology which supports or condones it is heretical."

We support your statement of faith that as Christians we owe our ultimate loyalty not to any human authority, however prestigious or powerful, but to God. We unequivocally oppose all tactics of the South African régime, including those represented by the Eloff Commission, to dictate to the SACC what the nature of its ministry should be. We will continue to support you in maintaining your witness to Christ and the integrity of the Church.

We see the report of the Eloff Commission as another sign that the government of South Africa will continue its attempts to isolate and restrict the witness you make in South Africa on behalf of us all. We are together members of the one body of Christ; if one part suffers, we all suffer.

We reject the judgments rendered by the Eloff Commission on the SACC and its work. The Commission report represents a distorted understanding of church-state relations, as well as of your ministry through humanitarian programmes and your prophetic witness concerning the socio-political oppression that is destroying the people of South Africa. The Commission appears to have ignored the evidence and testimony given by church leaders from South Africa and around the world who appeared before the Commission.

We pledge ourselves to join with the world-wide community of the Christian Church to stand by you and to uphold you in prayer, in witness and in action.

Archbishop Makhulu further presented a draft letter to be sent, with copies of the message to SACC, to members of Central Committee, WCC member churches and associate council of churches. After discussion and amendment, the text was adopted (Appendix IV).

Mr Koshy reported that the group had also considered the new situation in Southern Africa but had felt it was too early to make any comments. The group suggested that PCR and CCIA be asked to share information and an analysis of recent developments, particularly on the agreement between South Africa and Mozambique, with the member churches. This was agreed.

G. Communal violence

The Executive Committee agreed that a preliminary study document be prepared by CCIA in collaboration with the sub-unit on Dialogue with People of other Living Faiths, for consideration by the Executive Committee in July 1984, on the problems posed by the recurrent and often violent eruption of conflicts between religious communities in many parts of the world.

Special attention should also be paid to the implications for people of different religions in states where the law of the land is drawn from the tenets of one particular religion.

6. REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME

In addition to Sixth Assembly evaluation (p.7), the sub-committee considered a number of items which the Core Groups wanted brought directly to the attention of the Executive Committee for consideration and which were therefore not included in the documents on the General Secretariat and the Programme Units.

A. Ideologies

Metropolitan Chrysostomos presented the report of the sub-committee which was fully discussed. Mr Stalsett underlined that staff should give special attention to the modalities of approaching this subject. Bishop Hempel commented that the basis for fruitful discussion with ideologies was to be aware of the ideologies within our own thought and theology. Archbishop Kirill asked that the report make clear that the WCC should not simply study ideologies but must be ready to listen to those who profess them. Dr Wilson spoke of the need to consult member churches about their work on ideologies.

After considerable amendment, the report was received as follows:

The sub-committee discussed the proposal concerning the WCC's approach to ideology. It was noted that the memorandum did not propose to transfer the responsibility for dealing with ideology from Unit I to Unit II, but rather to find a new approach to the issue of ideologies within the WCC. It was recognized that the relationship of ideas and actions affects the work of the WCC in many areas. Ideological forces are confronted in many different forms as the Council seeks to fulfil its mandate. Responsibility for dealing with ideologies cannot, therefore, be confined to one programme Unit of the Council. At the same time it was stressed that care must be taken not to lose the concern for ideologies by distributing it over the Council as a whole.

Ideologies express themselves in philosophical, political and economic forms as well as in styles of life that are based on

dominant ideas that have not been systematized. They affect a wide range of questions like culture, science, education, attitude to women, etc., which would be the concern of different sub-units of the Council.

Unit II has been asked to serve as the locus of the WCC's work on ideology for the next period, recognizing the interest of other units in the subject. It has proposed to address the question of ideology as part of the unit-wide programme on justice and peace carried out in consultation with both Units I and III. The study and dialogue will concentrate on the role of ideology in society and political economy, its relationship to power systems and to popular religious convictions, and its place in the theological understanding of society. The study will make use of the experience accumulated by Unit I/DFI as well as of churches and partner groups in situations of tension, including the use of ideologies by individual Christians, churches, and by minority groups. (Presently, the staff working group for the study includes representatives of CCPD, CCIA, DFI, Education, CWME, and Faith and Order.)

It was stressed that the operational approach to ideology suggested in the Unit II paper must take special care to deal fully with the theoretical as well as the practical issues related to ideology, particularly as they affect the life and thought of Christians and influence even their theological positions.

It is the conviction of the Executive Committee:

a. that DFI be relieved of having the specific responsibility to give programmatic expression to the concern for ideologies;

b. that the sub-unit be renamed: Sub-unit on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths;

c. that Unit II serve as the locus of responsibility for the WCC's work of study and dialogue on ideology during the next period, with the understanding that it be carried out in consultation with the sub-units in Units I and III and that the location of the study in Unit II be reviewed in 1986.

It therefore asks that staff study the question of the WCC's approach to ideologies and bring to the next meeting of the Executive Committee an expanded statement of the rationale for addressing ideologies, a recommendation of which issues should be pursued in the immediate future, and in what manner the work should be carried out. The study should be informed by member churches' self-understanding of ideology.

B. Theological Advisory Group

Metropolitan Chrysostomos reported that the sub-committee had recognized the concern and need underlying the proposal of the Vancouver Programme Guidelines Committee. Several examples of this concern and need were given, e.g.

- All sub-units are concerned with theological work, but they use different approaches. How do these approaches interact? How can they be brought into a fruitful exchange?

- The panorama of different theological approaches should be clarified.

- Theological concepts change. Experiences had repercussions on theological theory.

- Different issues often evoke different theological approaches.

- Several sub-units will be working on the same issue from different angles (e.g. culture). The need for clarification and coherence of their theological approaches is obvious.

- The concern for more coherent theological work, for clarifying theological approaches, and for enabling their interaction can be exemplified in view of specific issues.

- It was acknowledged that the concern for more coherent theological work does not mean an attempt to suppress existing diversity, but to further theological interaction in all dimensions of the WCC.

Some preference was expressed in the sub-committee for more flexible structures over against the idea of setting up a new permanent structure in order to deal with these concerns.

Reflection within the staff on the mode of operation should be further pursued in order to present proposals to the Executive Committee in July. Such proposals should be flexible and include possibilities for more intensive theological discussion within staff, ad hoc groups, occasional consultations, etc.

The Executive Committee received this report and accepted its recommendations.

C. Annual Report

Metropolitan Chrysostomos reported that the proposal for a WCC annual report in magazine style was strongly endorsed by the sub-committee. Its major concern was that the report be pub-

lished in such a way as to encourage maximum distribution in those areas beyond the usual reach of WCC publications. This would require provision for many different regional editions, language versions and co-publications with the possibility to adapt and supplement the texts and photographs so they can be anchored and connected in each place. Negotiations with and where necessary subsidies for member churches to publish the report themselves or arrange for bulk distribution need to be initiated well before release of the report from Geneva.

The Executive Committee received this report and accepted its recommendations.

D. Ecumenical History Volume III

Metropolitan Chrysostomos reported that the sub-committee had reaffirmed the recommendation of the former Executive Committee that a small group be appointed by the Officers to prepare a revised and detailed proposal for the July meeting of the Executive and Central Committees. This should include a final outline and methodology of the proposed volume, budget, names for an editorial committee and regional collaborators, taking into account the proposals and recommendations of the sub-committee.

The Executive Committee received this report and accepted its recommendations.

E. Sub-unit consultations and meetings

Metropolitan Chrysostomos reported that the sub-committee had received and endorsed reports of consultations and meetings being planned by sub-units and units in 1984 (Appendix V). It was understood that these had been reviewed by the Finance Committee and were within budget, and that they were within the mandates of the units/sub-units. The sub-committee urged that, wherever possible, and within financial provisions, team visits be planned in conjunction with these meetings and every effort be made to contact churches in the area where they take place.

The sub-committee further recommended that in future

i. careful attention be given to the link between team visits and consultations;

ii. a comprehensive list of all conferences, consultations, workshops and other such meetings being planned be presented to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee received this report and accepted the recommendations of the sub-committee.

7. REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Dr Talbot presented the report.

A. Nominations process of the Assembly

After consideration of the experience of the Vancouver Assembly, the sub-committee proposed that the moderator of the Nominations Committee of the Assembly be asked to prepare a detailed paper for consideration by the Central Comittee, outlining the process, problems encountered and matters needing attention. This would be the first step in a careful study and reconsideration of the process in order to develop recommendations for presentation at a later date to the Central Committee regarding the nominations process at the next Assembly, including amendments to the Rules which might be necessary.

The Executive Committee accepted this proposal. It further noted that this review should include the appointment of delegates to the Assembly, including the 15% category.

B. Joint Working Group

The sub-committee had discussed possible names for WCC members of the Joint Working Group (JWG). Since the first meeting of the new JWG would be held in October 1984, the members would need to be appointed before the Central Committee. Further consultation would be needed to prepare a balanced slate of nominees, taking into account the members to be appointed by the Roman Catholic Church. It was recommended, therefore, that the Officers be authorized to appoint the WCC members of the JWG. The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation and agreed that the following criteria should be kept in mind:

- good understanding of the WCC;
- previous experience in Roman Catholic relationships;
- geographical and confessional balance;
- experience in specific programme areas where joint WCC/RCC collaboration is proposed.

C. Applications for membership

A document on applications for membership had been referred to the sub-committee. The sub-committee recommended that the action of Central Committee in 1979 (Minutes of Central Committee, Jamaica, January 1979, p. 27) be reaffirmed and that visits be arranged to churches applying for membership before their applications are considered by the Executive Committee. These visits should be arranged to take advantage of travel by Central Committee members, Assembly delegates, staff and other persons who could represent the Council. Special visits should be made where necessary. Churches whose applications are pending should be informed of this process.

The sub-committee further recommended that study be undertaken regarding the membership of churches which are in reality federations or associations of churches which may be separately members of the WCC.

After discussion and minor amendment, the Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

D. General Secretariat Committee

The sub-committee had considered a proposed amendment to the Rules clearly establishing the General Secretariat Committee. It noted that the proposal could only be acted on by the next Assembly. The sub-committee presented a proposal for interim action, which was fully discussed. Concern was expressed that the Committee on the General Secretariat might appear to have authority over Unit Committees and the Finance Committee. The General Secretary pointed out that every committee was answerable to Central Committee. There were a number of issues and relationships concerning the life of the WCC as a whole which could not be dealt with by the Unit Committees.

The Executive Committee agreed to ask staff to bring a proposal to its next meeting defining the functions of the Committee on the General Secretariat and its relationship to the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee. (See also Report of Sub-group on the General Secretariat, page 15).

E. Resource Sharing System

On the recommendation of the sub-committee, the Executive Committee agreed:

i. to receive the progress report on Resource Sharing;

ii. to appoint the proposed members of the Middle East Regional Group (Appendix VI).

F. Appointment of Commissions and Working Groups

The sub-committee had reviewed a memorandum on the appointment of Commissions and Working Groups and noted the information regarding provisions of the WCC Rules and Unit and sub-unit By-Laws and the procedures to be followed. Between the meetings of the Executive Committee in February and July, staff would prepare proposals for membership and moderators of Commissions and Working Groups. The persons proposed would be contacted to assure that they would be able to accept and participate if appointed. These proposals would be brought to the Executive Committee for approval and presentation to the Central Committee. Member churches would be consulted in this process.

The sub-committee had agreed that the functions of Commissions and Working Groups needed to be clarified, especially with regard to their advisory role in relation to Central Committee and the extent of their decision-making authority with regard to sub-unit programmes. The sub-committee understood that these were advisory bodies which formulated and monitored the implementation of programmes according to the policies determined by the Central Committee. The General Secretary indicated that a further paper would be brought to the Executive Committee in July.

Dr Talbot presented the criteria to be taken into account. After discussion and amendment, these were adopted by the Executive Committee as follows:

i. The need for persons with experience and expertise related to the work of a particular sub-unit, including some continuity with the previous Commission/ Working Group.

ii. The expectations of the member churches with regard to participation as evidenced by the 350 names suggested by the churches, and the recommendation made in Vancouver that serious consideration be given to churches without members on Central Committee.

iii. The importance of balance: regional, confessional, gender, age.

iv. The need for closer relationships between the Commissions, which are advisory, and the Central Committee, which has policy-making responsibilities.

The Executive Committee agreed to the following other considerations:

i. Commissions and Working Groups are important for programmes and staff. They are advisory bodies which provide support and vision based on local and regional situations.

ii. The following criteria should be kept in mind in selecting members:

- they should be knowledgeable about the needs of their region;
- they should assist in efforts which further ecumenical sharing of resources;
- they should maintain contacts with Central Committee members and networks in their region.

iii. Commissions and Working Groups need to be conscious of:

- their double accountability, to the churches in their area and to the WCC;
- their important advocacy and interpretation roles;
- the relationship of their specific programme to the total work of the WCC.

The General Secretary spoke of the growing tendency for churches to propose members of Commissions and Working Groups. As set out in the procedures noted above, member churches would be consulted in the process, but Commissions and Working Groups were purely advisory and flexibility was necessary in order to meet all the agreed criteria and considerations.

Dr Talbot presented the seven recommendations in the memorandum on the appointment of Commissions and Working Groups. These were fully discussed and a number of amendments accepted. Questions were raised about the proposal that Commissions/Working Groups should be smaller than the maximum allowed. Archbishop Kirill pointed out that this would make it more difficult to achieve the necessary balances. He did not want to give the impression that the WCC was trying to limit the participation of the churches in implementing programmes and therefore opposed any reduction in the size of Commissions/Working Groups. The General Secretary stressed the need, in view of limited resources, for flexibility to bring in special advisers for particular emphases at different times. The growing emphasis on inter-unit programmes made this all the more necessary. Some sub-units needed full Commissions; others wanted to try new styles of work. He added that the recommendations provided for a midway review of the membership of Commissions/Working Groups between Assemblies.

The Executive Committee agreed that:

i. All Commissions/Working Groups should if possible be smaller than the maximum allowed. This would enable additional persons to be invited on an ad hoc basis to attend meetings or special consultations according to the matters to be discussed, thus involving more persons in the work of the sub-unit.

ii. All Commissions meet twice between now and the 1987 Central Committee meeting (January), one of these meetings to be Unit-wide, bringing the sub-units of a Unit together at the same time and place.

iii. Membership be reviewed at the 1987 Central Committee meeting.

iv. One of the officers of each Commission/Working Group be a member of Central Committee.

v. At least two members of Central Committee (depending on the size of the Commission) be considered for membership in each Commission/Working Group.

vi. Proper balances be maintained in the membership as per the total list and per Unit, recognizing that in the sub-units not all categories can be represented.

vii. In so far as possible, special efforts should be made to provide at least the proportion of Orthodox, women and youth present at the Assembly (Orthodox 23%, women 30%, youth 13%) for membership.

Dr Love proposed an additional recommendation:

viii. That the Executive Committee receive the proposal for membership of the Commissions and Working Groups before its arrival to its meeting in July.

This was agreed in principle, on the understanding that the General Secretary would do everything possible to implement it in view of the time problem.

8. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr McCloud presented the report as follows:

1. Review of the 1983 Financial Situation

1.1 General

The financial outcome of the previous year is not yet final at this time and the figures are still subject to auditing. However, the adjustments still to come should not substantially alter these preliminary results.

1.2 Investments

The management of the funds held by the Council achieved relatively high performance again in 1983 in spite of the continued drop of interest rates. Total investment income received exceeded four million Swiss francs during the year. In addition to interest income actually received, the portfolios managed by the WCC increased in value because of capital gains realised during the year.

1.3 Undesignated fund position

Expenses which will have to be charged to undesignated income are in the order of 5.1 to 5.2 million Swiss francs, well below the 5,861,000 francs amount budgeted. Enough undesignated income has been received in 1983 to cover these expenses.

For the second year in a row, no deficit is therefore to be expected.

1.4 Exchange situation

The Exchange Fluctuation Reserve remains at the SF 2,500,000 level since the WCC has not had to utilise this fund.

1.5 Designated funds

In 1983, the total current income exceeds the total current expenses of the Council, for the second year in a row.

It appears that all designated sub-unit fund balances will be similar to or higher than that at the beginning of the year.

All fund balances remain in excess of the minimum level stipulated by the policy established by the Central Committee.

1.6 Allocation of 1983 interest

As the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve remains unchanged at a level which is considered to be well over the minimum required, it is recommended that the allocation of interest earned in 1983 on the fund be made to the operating balance (in the interest account) and not to the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve. The rest of the investment income will be distributed to the various funds according to existing policies.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

2. Sixth Assembly financial outcome

2.1 Assembly accounts

The following figures are still subject to minor variations and auditors' adjustments, but reflect fairly the situation. According to these figures, the Sixth Assembly account closes with a small surplus.

Expenses	at 31.12.83		7,043,513
	1984 estimated	+	80,000
			7,123,513
	Provision for outstanding claims	+	210,000
			7,333,513
	Authorized budget	-	7,236,000
	Overrun		97,513
Income	Assembly reserve and WCC funds		1,600,000
	Income at 31.12.83		5,644,828
	Still expected 1984		100,000
			7,344,828
	Difference income over expenses	+	11,415

2.2 Outstanding claims

These claims are related to travel, and board and lodging invoices. Should the expenditure of the 210,000 frs provision not be necessary, it is recommended that the resulting positive balance be transferred to the Seventh Assembly Reserve.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

2.3 Income outstanding

Should this income not be forthcoming, it is recommended that an equivalent amount be set aside as a guarantee from the 1982 interest earned which was not distributed, and that the rest of this sum, or 1,086,428 - 100,000 = 986,428, be distributed to the funds held by the various sub-units. Should this income actually be received, this guarantee amount would also be transferred to the Seventh Assembly Reserve.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

2.4 1984 Contribution to Seventh Assembly Reserve

In view of the above results, it is recommended that the 1984 contribution to the Seventh Assembly Reserve be taken from the

500,000 frs amount which was added to the General Reserve by the Executive Committee in February 1982, "to cover contingencies". The amount needed is 300,000 frs.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

Pending the presentation to the Executive Committee in July of a financial plan for the funding of the Seventh Assembly (WCC appropriations and contributions from member churches), it is recommended that the remaining amount continue to be held in the General Reserve.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

2.5 Acknowledgements

The Executive Committee wishes to express its deep appreciation for the considerable support given to the WCC for its Sixth Assembly by the Canadian churches, the University of British Columbia, and the Canadian Government. This expression of gratitude also goes to the member churches who responded positively to the appeals made to them to contribute generously to the budget of the Sixth Assembly. Finally, these thanks are also addressed to the staff who were responsible for the fund-raising and for the management of the Assembly expenses.

3. 1984 Budget

The Executive Committee, in its July 1983 meeting at Vancouver, adopted the 1984 budget. However, a number of provisos were attached to this adoption. The Finance Sub-committee received reports that the two following points have been solved and brings them to the Executive Committee for information.

3.1 Unit II Service Programme

A "negative fund balance" was anticipated at the end of 1984. This was due mainly to the large shortfall of income forecast for PCR. The 1983 income situation has been better than was expected and, on the other hand, the staffing of a fourth programme staff position in PCR has been delayed.

Under these conditions, the Unit II Service Programme fund balance will not be negative at the end of 1984.

3.2 Scholarships

A "negative fund balance" was anticipated at the end of 1984. The 1983 income of the Education Sub-unit has been much higher than was expected. Furthermore, CICARWS has transferred Sfr. 350,000 to Youth and Scholarships at the end of 1983.

Under these conditions, the Education fund balance will not be negative at the end of 1984.

3.3 Staff position within General Secretariat

The Executive Committee asked that a method of funding for this new position be found which would not increase the deficit foreseen in the approved 1984 budget. The sub-committee recognises that the staff could not find such a solution because the present policy is that the costs of the General Secretariat should be covered by undesignated income. The sub-committee accepts that an increased shortfall in undesignated income could consequently occur and recommends that such a shortfall be covered by the Exchange Fluctuation Reserve.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation, and confirmed the 1984 budget (Appendix VII).

4. 1985 Preliminary Budget

The sub-committee examined the structure of programme support to Units and sub-units, and then proceeded to an examination of the 1985 preliminary budget.

The sub-committee examined the preliminary 1985 budget with the understanding that it was tentative and had not been through the usual staff processes prior to presentation due to the holding of the Core Groups meeting in January, and that it reflected first attempts to include programmes called for by the Core Groups.

The sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee instruct the staff to bring a revised budget to the July meeting of the Executive Committee, taking into account the following comments and recommendations:

1. In the light of the actions of the Assembly and of the Central and Executive Committee with regard to a balanced budget, that is a budget which is within income or which can show the means by which it will balance, the sub-committee sees the necessity of working within the framework of an annually balanced budget over the next seven years.

2. The sub-committee examined the estimates made for the income budget and agreed that it provided a reasonable basis on which to work.

3 It was noted that certain items had not been included in the budget (for instance an annual report, team visits). The sub-committee requested that provision should be made for them if they are approved by the Executive Committee.

4. The programmes presented are the point of departure in compiling the budget, but it was recognised that the discussions in both the Core Groups and in the Executive

Committee did not take place in a budgetary context, or with a critical financial appraisal of the plans set out.

5. Although the main aims of the programmes may be established, the development of programmes within these aims must be tailored to financial limits. In this context, greater cooperation at Unit level is necessary.

6. Timing: if all the proposals for programme are accepted, there is need to consider the time frame of their implementation, including any decisions on additional staff positions. This implies a staggered implementation of programme with the Central Committee deciding priorities on what to pursue and what to postpone.

7. The sub-committee had doubts on the possibilities of expanding programmes and staff, even in the long term, and therefore suggested that different styles and different working methods might be considered. Amongst other possibilities, the sub-committee suggested that of asking churches, councils, or others to undertake certain tasks on behalf of the whole ecumenical fellowship, perhaps running part of programmes for some years on its behalf, and the encouragement of churches to make in-kind contributions such as hosting of meetings, etc.

8. In the light of the Assembly recommendation on the need to free undesignated income for short-term, experimental programmes, it is recommended that the Executive Committee call the attention of sub-units to the fact that after 1985 they should anticipate receiving a reduced allocation of undesignated income. Sub-units would thus have to work with OICD in raising designated funds for continuing programmes, which should be for the support of their entire operation and not just for specific programmes or projects.

9. The sub-committee believes that, in order to achieve the objectives intended by the Assembly, it is necessary that within the 5-year programme cycle, the Central Committee should have open to it the possibility of running certain programmes for a limited period, terminating them and using the available financial resources for other programmes.

10. The Executive Committee should call the attention of Central Committee to the danger of adding to programmes which already are apparently beyond the resources available to carry them out.

The Executive Committee accepted the comments and recommendations regarding the 1985 preliminary budget.

5. Expansion of the Ecumenical Centre

The sub-committee received a progress report of the joint WCC-LWF Task Force which was mandated "to undertake a comparative study of alternatives".

The various alternatives were reviewed and the sub-committee affirmed the orientation of the work of the Task Force both in terms of the alternative to study further and of the principles for the financing of a possible expansion.

The sub-committee recommends that an expenditure of Sfr 45,000 be authorized, to prepare the preliminary drawings and cost estimates needed to enable the Central Committee to take eventual future decisions regarding such an expansion.

The sub-committee instructed staff to explore possible rental opportunities, to prepare elements of a financing plan and to approach the LWF regarding a long-term lease should an expansion be decided.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendations.

6. Review of staff salaries

In accordance with the Staff Rules and Regulations, the cost of living index in Geneva is reviewed twice a year, on 30 June and on 31 December. On 31 December 1983, it was 103.1, a 3.1% increase since 31 December 1982. As the cost of living has not increased by 4% or more since the last review, there is no action to be taken on staff salaries.

7. Consideration of financial implications of staff appointments

All staff appointments proposed are within the 1984 budgets.

8. Computer report

The sub-committee received a progress report on the development of the acquisition and use of computers by the WCC and of the development of the new accounting system.

9. Nominations

9.1 Nominations for Investment Advisory Group

The present members of the Investment Advisory Group have all accepted reappointment for the next period. They are:

MM. Guy Demole, Walter Leutenegger, Jan Pronk, John Strawson, and Jean-Paul Widmer.

It is recommended that these persons be reappointed. The sub-committee asked the staff that one or two additional names of women candidates be brought to the Executive Committee in July 1984.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

9.2 Nominations for Audit Committee

It is reported that the 1983 accounts will be scrutinized by the existing Audit Committee and the recommendations for nominations will be brought to the Executive Committee in July 1984.

10. Assembly decisions on finance

The sub-committee studied the implications of Assembly decisions on finance and the comments and suggestions of the Core Groups regarding four issues:

- minimum membership contributions;
- use of designated and undesignated funds;
- increasing the flexibility of funding patterns;
- relationships between the different levels of decision-making.

The sub-committee recommends that further study be undertaken on these issues and that the staff bring recommendations to the Executive Committee in July 1984 regarding the implementation of the relevant Assembly decisions.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

11. Nominations to Provident and Retirement Fund Boards

The sub-committee recommends that the following three Executive Committee members be elected to both the Provident and the Retirement Fund Boards for three years as of March 1, 1984:

Mr Harry Ashmall
Dr Marga Bührig
Dr Oscar McCloud

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

The sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee further elect

Mr Archie Turnbull

to the Retirement Fund Board for three years as of March 1, 1984.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

12. Small consultations in 1984

The sub-committee considered the various small consultations planned for 1984 and reports that their cost is within the approved 1984 budget.(see also p. 26).

The Executive Committee received the report of the Finance Sub-committee and accepted its recommendations.

9. PCR SPECIAL FUND

In view of the fact that the Executive Committee would be required to take action with regard to the Special Fund at its next meeting and before the appointment of the PCR Commission, it was agreed that the Officers be authorized to appoint 6-10 people with experience in the work of PCR to review the requests for grants from the Special Fund and make recommendations to the Executive Committee.

10. CENTRAL COMMITTEE PROGRAMME

Mr Perkins presented the proposed programme for Central Committee. Ms Love asked that more time be given to the orientation of new members of the Committee regarding the structure and processes of the WCC, and the role of Central Committee compared with that of the Executive and of Commissions and Working Groups. This might be done by the presentation of a paper together with audio-visuals. Former members of Central Committee as well as staff should be involved in the process. It was suggested that this orientation might take place either on the evening of 9 July or in the first meeting of Small Groups. Staff were asked to revise the programme in the light of this concern.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the next meeting of the Executive Committee would take place in Geneva, 4-7 July 1984, followed by Central Committee, 8-19 July.

It was noted that invitations had been received for the Central Committee to meet in Argentina, Brazil, the FRG and the USSR. The Kimbanguist Church had invited the Executive Committee to meet in Zaire.

After discussion, it was agreed to hold Executive Committee meetings on the following dates:

3-9 February 1985
10-13 July 1985
16-22 February 1986
14-20 September 1986

The location of these meetings would be considered later.

It was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that, following previous practice, the Central Committee should meet only once in the two years 1986 and 1987, midway between Assemblies. The date proposed was in January 1987. Archbishop Kirill requested that it be scheduled late enough to allow Orthodox members to celebrate Christmas at home.

The dates proposed for Central Committee meetings would be:

14-25 July 1985
14-26 January 1987
12-28 July 1988
16-27 July 1989

12. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Expressions of thanks

The General Secretary paid tribute to Mr Bluck, Director of the Department of Communication, who would be leaving at the end of April. Under his leadership the Department had been transformed to be of greater service to the Council and the churches, and he had helped WCC staff and leadership to reflect as Christians on the meaning of communication.

The Moderator thanked the General Secretary and staff for preparing the work of the Executive Committee, and members of the Committee for their cooperation. On behalf of the Executive, Dr McCloud expressed gratitude to the Moderator, and also proposed that special thanks be conveyed to the Geneva churches for their invitation to Executive members to visit parishes on Sunday, 26 February.

This was agreed.

B. Closing worship

Metropolitan Chrysostomos led the closing prayers.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Honorary President:	Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft
Presidents:	Dame R. Nita Barrow Dr Marga Bührig His Eminence Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel Most Rev. W.P.K. Makhulu Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson
Officers:	Rev. Dr Heinz J. Held (Moderator) His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra (Vice-Moderator) Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot (Vice-Moderator) Rev. Dr Philip A. Potter (General Secretary)
Members:	Ms Annathaie Abayasekera His Eminence Metropolitan Antonie of Ardeal Mr Harry A. Ashmall Mr Bena-Silu Ms Joyce Kaddu His Eminence Archbishop Kirill Dr Janice Love Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud Rev. Dr S.A.E. Nababan Rev. Meinard Piske Ms Jean Skuse Rev. Gunnar Stalsett Dr Aaron Tolen Bishop Karoly Toth
Observer:	Protopresbyter V. Borovoy
Staff:	Rev. Dr Samuel Amirtham Rev. S. Wesley Ariarajah Ms Marie B. Assaad Rev. Dr Ulrich Becker Rev. Ans van der Bent Rev. Jacques Blanc Rev. John Bluck Prof. Ion Bria Rev. Dr Arie R. Brouwer Ms Gwendoline Cashmore Mr Patrick Coïdan Mr Trevor Davies Mr Robert van Drimmelen Rev. Dr Günther Gassmann Prof. Dr Adriaan Geense Rev. Dr David Gosling Mr Victor Hsu Mr William Jones Mr Ninan Koshy Mr Nicholas Maro Rev. William A. Perkins Mr Hugh Pettingell

Staff (continued)	Dr Eric Ram Prof. Todor Sabev Rev. Carlos Sintado Rev. Dr Eugene Stockwell Fr George Tsetsis Mr Archibald Turnbull Rev. Bärbel von Wartenberg Mr Erich Weingärtner
Interpreters:	Ms Ilse Friedeberg Ms Roswitha Ginglas-Poulet Mr Serguei G. Gordeev
Minute writer:	Ms Auriol Burrows
Administration:	Ms Rosemary Green Ms Anne Williamson

APOLOGIES

President:	His Beatitude Ignatios IV
Members:	Rt Rev. Athanasios Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-GROUPS

(for review of programme documents)

General Secretariat

Ms Jean Skuse (Moderator)
His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos
Bishop Dr J.W. Hempel
Most Rev. W.P.K. Makhulu
Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud
Rev. Meinard Piske

Unit I

Rev. Dr S.A.E. Nababan (Moderator)
Mr Bena-Silu
His Eminence Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
His Eminence Archbishop Kirill
Rev. Gunnar Stalsett
Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson

Unit II

Dr Aaron Tolen (Moderator)
Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
Dr Janice Love
Dr Sylvia Talbot
Bishop Karoly Toth

Unit III

Mr Harry A. Ashmall (Moderator)
His Eminence Metropolitan Antonie
Dame Nita Barrow
Dr Marga Bührig
Ms Joyce Kaddu

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-committee on Programme

His Eminence Metropolitan Chrysostomos (Moderator)
Dr Marga Bührig
His Eminence Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
Bishop Dr J.W. Hempel
His Beatitude Ignatios IV (not present)
Ms Joyce Kaddu
Dr Janice Love
Rev. Dr S.A.E. Nababan
Rev. Meinard Piske
Bishop Karoly Toth

Sub-committee on Finance

Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud (Moderator)
His Eminence Metropolitan Antonie
Mr Harry A. Ashmall
Mr Bena-Silu
Very Rev. W.P.K. Makhulu
Ms Jean Skuse
Rev. Gunnar Stalsett
Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson

Sub-committee on Staffing and Nominations

Dr Sylvia Talbot (Moderator)
Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
Rt Rev. Athanasios (not present)
Dame Nita Barrow
Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo (not present)
His Eminence Archbishop Kirill
Dr Aaaron Tolen

LETTER TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS,
MEMBER CHURCHES AND ASSOCIATE COUNCILS

28 February 1984

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Eloff Commission presented its report to the South African Parliament on 15th February 1984. This Commission was appointed in 1981 by the South African government to investigate the activities of the South African Council of Churches. Additional background information is enclosed.

The allegations against the SACC which are contained in the report of the Eloff Commission are severe. The report stops short of asking that the SACC be declared an "affected organization". It however recommends that the SACC be placed under measures of an amended Fund-raising Act. Implementation of this recommendation would further hamper the work of the SACC in the future.

The basic conflict between the SACC and the South African government is of a theological nature. The South African authorities are trying to dictate to the SACC what the nature of Christian ministry should be. The South African authorities also seem to be trying to isolate the SACC from the world-wide ecumenical family.

Responding to the Eloff Commission report, the General Secretary of the SACC, Bishop Desmond Tutu, stated: "... this Commission was a thinly veiled part of the government's strategy to vilify and discredit the Council... No one can understand why we exist as a Council and why we do and say the things we do unless they understand our theological, bibilical justification for doing so".

It is of paramount importance at this moment to give all possible support to the SACC in its witness to a more just society in South Africa. Therefore, the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting near Geneva, Switzerland on 20-28 February 1984, decided to send a message of solidarity to the SACC. The text of this message is enclosed.

We urge you to send your own messages of support to the SACC. The address of the SACC is 42 de Villiers Street, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. You may also wish to stimulate your respective governments to put pressure on the South African government to cease and desist in its attempts to restrict the Christian ministry of the SACC. Other demonstrations of solidarity may also be appropriate.

Please keep us informed of all actions taken by you in this respect.

Yours sincerely,

Heinz Joachim Held
Moderator, WCC Executive Committee

Philip Potter
General Secretary

SMALL CONSULTATIONS APPROVED FOR 1984

UNIT I:

CWME

Meeting on Gospel and culture - theological session with the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, May, Rome

URM Advisory Group, May, Zimbabwe

Orthodox Advisory Group, October, Germany

Church and Society

Workshop on technology, employment and rapid social change, September, Scotland

Faith and Order

Consultation on the explication of the apostolic faith, November, Asia

Consultation on Church as sign of the renewal of human community, December, Western Europe

DFI

Consultation on religious pluralism and commitment to truth, November, USA

Buddhist-Christian meeting in North-East Asia, November

UNIT II:

Unit II

Consultation with peace and justice movements, May, Geneva

Unit II/RSS/CCPD/CICARWS

Workshop evaluation of consortia/country programmes, May, Geneva

PCR

Workshop on banking and investment with special reference to South Africa, June

UNIT III:

PTE

Consultation on theology by the people, August, Portugal

Women

Workshop on Participation, December

Renewal and Congregational Life

Consultation on ecumenical spirituality, October, Geneva

Youth

Advisory group meeting for International Youth Year, last quarter 1984, Geneva

MEMBERSHIP OF REGIONAL RESOURCE SHARING GROUP IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Bishop Hidra, Coptic Orthodox Church, Egypt

Mr Makram Mehanny, Coptic Orthodox Church, Egypt

Mr Nabeel Samuel, Coptic Evangelical Church, Egypt

Bishop Paul Minas, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria, Egypt

To be nominated: Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch, Lebanon

Mr Edward Asmar, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch, Lebanon

Ms Arpie Tchiboukjian, Armenian Apostolic Church, Lebanon

Rev. B. Apartian, Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the near East, Lebanon

Judge Khalil Aboud, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Arab-Israel

Dr Nabil Boulos, Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, Jordan

Ms Rose Jarjour, National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, Lebanon

Ms Jean Zaru, Friends United Meeting, West Bank

Mr Shemshoon Maghsoodpour, Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, Iran

Mr Nicolaides, Church of Cyprus, Cyprus

1984 APPROVED BUDGET

Budget Entity	Total Expense Budget	Internal Recoveries & Transfers	Net Expense Budget	Income	Transfers from Reserves	Authorised Allocation Undesignated Income
General Secretariat	1521756		1521756	18500		1503256
New York Office	361457	43000	318457	86625		231832
OICD	372803	372803	0			
WCC Governing Bodies	528000	528000	0			
Library	339214	339214	0			
Documentation Service	116193	116193	0			
Sub Total General Secretariat			1840213	105125		1735088
Faith & Order	1016422	18900	997522	242400		755122
CWME	2575191		2575191	2163825	411366	
DFI	793750	164100	629650	255284		374366
Church & Society	387291		387291	35000		352291
Unit I General	104290		104290	100000		4290
Sub Total Unit I			4693944	2796509	411366	1486069
CICARWS	9770935		9770935	9089761	681174	
UNIT II Service Programme	737269	446952	290317	1605226	-1314909	
CCIA	1314256	48300	1265956	283337	982619	
PCR	1177887		1177887	512622	665265	
CCPD	1735740		1735740	1735740		
CMC	1498210		1498210	1448463	49747	

Renewal & Congregational Life	536927		536927	233425		303502
Youth	619709		619709	257710	50000	311999
Women	668009		668009	723165	-55156	
Education	2189192		2189192	1780827	408365	
PTE	1755513		1755513	1369139	386374	
UNIT III General	111408		111408	100000		11408
Sub Total Unit III			5880758	4464266	789583	626909
Communication	5144046	1871695	3272351	952000		2320351
Ecumenical Institute Bossey	2198932		2198932	2026132		172800
Finance & Central Services	2156703		2156703	2156703		
Sub Total			7627986	5134835		2493151
Totals			35781946	27175884	2264845	6341217
General Reserve			100000			100000
7th Assembly Reserve			300000		300000	
Totals			36181946	27175884	2564845	6441217
Undesignated Income Budget						6000000
Shortfall Undesignated Income						441217
Available from Interest Income					150000	
Over-recovery built in to Budget					65755	
						215755
Remaining Shortfall						225462